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AMENDED CLAIM SET

The claims have been amended as set forth in the following listing of the claims:

1. (currently amended) A valve system for an internal combustion engine, comprising:

an intake-side rocker shaft;

an exhaust-side rocker shaft;

intake-side rocker arms having ends thereof connected to intake valves and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said intake-side rocker arms rock, the intake-side rocker arms being driven by intake cams, the intake side rocker arms including an intake cam

a first rocker arm having an end thereof connected to the intake valve and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said first rocker arm rocks, the first rocker arm being driven by a first low-lift cam, and

a second rocker arm having an end thereof connectable to said first rocker arm and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft, the second rocker arm being adapted to engage with the first rocker arm at an angle substantially perpendicular to a center longitudinal axis of the intake valve, such that said second rocker arm rocks, the second rocker arm being driven by a high-lift cam causing a larger valve lift than the first low-lift cam;

exhaust-side rocker arms having ends thereof connected to exhaust valves and supported on said exhaust-side rocker shaft such that said exhaust-side rocker arms rock, the exhaust-side rocker arms being driven by an exhaust cam; and

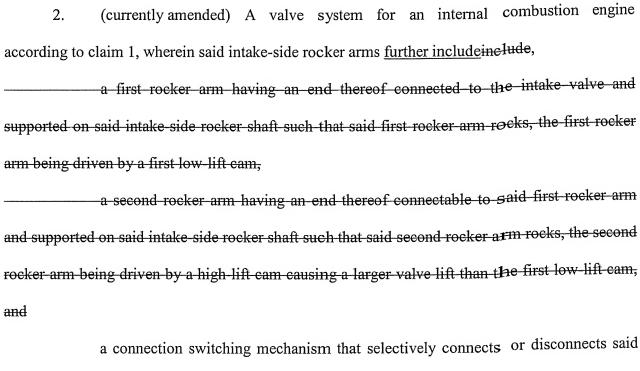
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a switching mechanism switching operating characteristics of the intake valves,

wherein the intake-side rocker shaft is provided with the switching mechanism and has a larger diameter than the exhaust-side rocker shaft.



second rocker arm to or from said first rocker arm.

(currently amended) A valve system for an internal combustion engine 3. according to claim 1, wherein,

said intake valves include a first intake valve and a second intake valve, and said intake-side rocker arms further includeinclude,

a first rocker arm having an end thereof connected to said first intake valve and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said first rocker arm rocks, the first rocker arm being driven by a first low-lift cam,

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a third rocker arm having an end thereof connected to said second intake valve and

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supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said third rocker arm rocks, the third rocker

arm being driven by a second low-lift cam that causes a smaller valve lift than the first low-lift

cam, and

a second rocker arm having an end thereof connectable to said first rocker arm and

supported on said intake side rocker shaft such that said second rocker arm rocks, the second

rocker arm being driven by a high lift cam that causes a larger valve lift than the first low lift

cam, and

a connection switching mechanism that selectively connects or disconnects said second

rocker arm to or from said first rocker arm and said third rocker arm.

4. (previously presented) A valve system for an internal combustion engine

according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein said intake-side rocker arms include center-pivot type

rocker arms with middle parts thereof pivoted by said intake side rocker shaft.

5. (original) A valve system for an internal combustion engine according to

claim 4, wherein said intake-side rocker arms and said exhaust-side rocker arms are driven by a

single cam shaft disposed between said intake-side rocker shaft and said exhaust-side rocker

shaft.

6. (previously presented) A valve system for an internal combustion engine

according to claim 3, wherein the first rocker arm has a first roller follower provided with a

double-ring type sliding roller that makes contact with the first low-lift cam.

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7. (previously presented) A valve system for an internal combustion engine

according to claim 3, wherein the first rocker arm has a first roller follower provided with a

double-ring type sliding roller that makes contact with the first low-lift cam, and the third rocker

arm has second roller follower provided with a needle bearing that makes contact with the

second low-lift cam.

8. (currently amended) A valve system for an internal combustion engine,

comprising:

an intake-side rocker shaft having a first oil channel extending in a longitudinal direction

thereof;

an exhaust-side rocker shaft having a second oil channel extending in a longitudinal

direction thereof;

intake-side rocker arms having ends thereof connected to intake valves and supported on

said intake-side rocker shaft such that said intake-side rocker arms rock, the intake-side rocker

arms being driven by intake cams, the intake side rocker arms including, an intake cam

a first rocker arm having an end thereof connected to the intake valve and

supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said first rocker arm rocks, the first rocker

arm being driven by a first low-lift cam, and

a second rocker arm having an end thereof connectable to said first rocker arm

and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft, the second rocker arm being adapted to engage

with the first rocker arm at an angle substantially perpendicular to a center longitudinal axis of

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the intake valve, such that said second rocker arm rocks, the second rocker arm being driven by a

high-lift cam causing a larger valve lift than the first low-lift cam;

exhaust-side rocker arms having ends thereof connected to exhaust valves and supported

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on said exhaust-side rocker shaft such that said exhaust-side rocker arms rock, the exhaust-side

rocker arms being driven by an exhaust cam; and

a switching mechanism switching operating characteristics of the intake valves,

wherein the intake-side rocker shaft is provided with the switching mechanism and has a

larger diameter than the exhaust-side rocker shaft.

9. (currently amended) A valve system for an internal combustion engine,

comprising:

an intake-side rocker shaft;

an exhaust-side rocker shaft;

intake-side rocker arms having ends thereof connected to intake valves and supported on

said intake-side rocker shaft, such that said intake-side rocker arms rock, the intake-side rocker

arms being driven by an intake cam;

exhaust-side rocker arms having ends thereof connected to exhaust valves and supported

on said exhaust-side rocker shaft, such that said exhaust-side rocker arms rock, the exhaust-side

rocker arms being driven by an exhaust cam, the exhaust-side rocker arms including,

a first rocker arm having an end thereof connected to the exhaust valve and

supported on said exhaust-side rocker shaft such that said first rocker arm rocks, and

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a second rocker arm having an end thereof connectable to said first rocker arm and supported on said exhaust-side rocker shaft, the second rocker arm being adapted to engage with the first rocker arm at an angle substantially perpendicular to a center longitudinal axis of the exhaust valve, such that said second rocker arm rocks; and

a switching mechanism switching operating characteristics of the exhaust valves,

wherein the exhaust-side rocker shaft is provided with the switching mechanism and has a larger diameter than the intake-side rocker shaft.